

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00649

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV EB GE GW UK US FR
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN REICHSBAHN TARIFFS FOR ALLIED
MILITARY TRAINS TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 109 NOTAL; (B) 76 USBER 2524 NOTAL

1. ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS, IN A TRIPARTITE MEETING
ON JANUARY 10, DISCUSSED THE ANNOUNCEMENT SENT BY THE
REICHSBAHN TO BERLIN MISSIONS IN NOVEMBER THAT TARIFFS
FOR PULLING ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS THROUGH THE GDR WOULD
BE GREATLY INCREASED AS OF FEBRUARY 1 (REF B).
ALLIED REPS WERE AWARE THAT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH
THIS PROPOSED INCREASE WERE BEING DISCUSSED BY BERLIN
MISSIONS BUT THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN BONN.

2. ALLIED REPS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT SOME KIND OF
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INCREASE WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED, BOTH BECAUSE THE
PRESENT TARIFF STRUCTURE HAD BEEN UNCHANGED SINCE
WORLD WAR II AND BECAUSE A REFUSAL TO PAY THE
INCREASED RATES WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN SLOWDOWNS OF
THE ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS. REPORTING FROM MISSIONS
TO EMBASSIES INDICATED THAT THE MISSIONS WERE ACTIVELY
CONSIDERING THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, SUCH AS WHETHER

THE REICHSBAHN SHOULD BE TOLD TO INFORM THE SOVIETS IF IT THOUGHT A REQUEST WAS NEEDED, WHETHER THE ALLIES THEMSELVES SHOULD GO TO THE SOVIETS TO SUGGEST RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE 1946 OCCUPATION ORDER ESTABLISHING TARIFFS, OR WHETHER A PROCEDURE SHOULD BE DEVISED FOR NEGOTIATING, UNDER FOUR POWER AUSPICES, BETWEEN THE BUNDESBahn AND THE REICHSBAHN.

3. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, ALLIED REPS AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF TIME BEFORE THE NEW TARIFF SCHEDULE IS TO TAKE EFFECT, TO BRIEF THE FRG IN THE BONN GROUP ON THE ISSUE AND TO SEEK CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE FRG; AND

B. TO ASK BERLIN MISSIONS FOR A STATUS REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS OF THE ISSUES AS POSED IN ECON/MEMO (76) 35 DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1976.

4. IN THE NOVEMBER 11 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE US REP AS CHAIRMAN INFORMED THE FRG DELEGATION OF THE REICHSBAHN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TARIFF INCREASE AND OF THE ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED IN BERLIN. HE STATED THAT, BECAUSE INFORMATION ON HOW ALLIED ACCOUNTS ARE SETTLED BETWEEN THE BUNDESBahn AND THE REICHSBAHN IS NOT AVAILABLE IN BERLIN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE FRG REP TO DEVELOP THAT INFORMATION. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) ADDED THAT, BEFORE AN OPINION COULD BE REACHED ON

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WHETHER A TARIFF INCREASE WAS JUSTIFIED, AND IF SO HOW MUCH, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE REACTION OF BUNDESBahn EXPERTS TO THE PROPOSED NEW TARIFF SCHEDULE.

5. HENZE UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON BOTH POINTS FROM THE BUNDESBahn OR THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND TO RELAY THIS INFORMATION BACK TO THE BONN GROUP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE A STATUS REPORT FROM USBER ON THE STATE OF DISCUSSIONS.
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